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NEWSFILE



Howard University Hospital cardiovascular surgeon Robert Lowery participated in the first two heart transplant operations performed by the Washington Regional Heart Transplant Consortium.

The consortium was formed in the fall of 1986 and received certification of approval last March. In addition to Howard University Hospital, the consortium includes: Children's Hospital of the National Medical Center, Fairfax Hospital, George Washington University Medical Center, Georgetown University Medical Center and the Washington Hospital Center. The consortium is one of five such hospital groups in the nation.

The Howard University Singers, part of the critically acclaimed Howard University Choir, traveled to Poland in mid-August to give five concerts in several cities and record an album featuring the music of Afro-American compos-

ers. The group performed in the capital city of Warsaw and participated in a musical festival in Krakow.

The 35-member Howard University Singers was invited by the Capella Cracoviensis, a music group in Poland.

According to Jos Friszt, musical director and conductor of the Lima (Ohio) Symphony Orchestra, who helped arrange the trip, the singers from Howard constituted "the first all-Black choir to perform in Poland."

Another example of the Howard Choir's international linkages was evident a month later when it joined with a visiting Venezuelan choir, Coral Canta Mundo, in a concert at the university's Rankin Memorial Chapel on the main campus.

The concert by Coral Canta Mundo, a Caracas-based group of 40 singers, was sponsored by the Embassy of Venezuela and the Howard College of Fine Arts.

Karen Gibbs, a May graduate of the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences was named one of *GLAMOUR*'s Top Ten College Women of the Year, as featured in the August issue of the magazine.

She was the first student from Howard to be so named in the 31-year history of the magazine's competition, according to *GLAMOUR* officials.

Nearly 700 young college women entered this year's competition. Winners were selected on the basis of accomplishment in scholarship, leadership and involvement in campus activities.

Gibbs' career at Howard, indeed,



was marked by a string of achievements — and lots of hard work.

She was honored as Outstanding Freshman Woman for the 1981-82 academic year in the College of Liberal Arts, won the National Pharmaceutical Association's Ambi Scholarship and was listed last year in "Distinguished Young American Women."

The first person in her family to earn a college degree, the Huger, S.C., native helped pay for her education through a variety of jobs, including one as a pharmacy technician at the Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md. This August she started a residency in pharmacy at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. And she already has her eyes fixed on her next step up the academic ladder: pursuing a doctoral degree in pharmacy.

As for the *GLAMOUR* accolade, she says, "It makes me proud to see that someone else has recognized my pursuit of excellence in my college education and pharmacy career."

Prominent Washington, D.C., businessman Dominic F. Antonelli, Jr., and his wife, Judith, have contributed \$100,000 to the School of Law to establish an endowed scholarship in their names.

The annual amount of the interest derived from the gift will be used to help support "worthy students of Howard University School of Law who demonstrate the need for funds to continue or complete their legal studies."



Faustine Jones-Wilson, professor of education and editor of *The Journal of Negro Education*, is co-leader of a national initiative to halt educational underachievement in Black children.

The vehicle for this initiative is the National Conference on Educating Black Children (NCEBC), which she co-chairs with retired Los Angeles school administrator Owen Knox.

Launched in 1986, the organization has recently developed a blue-

print for action aimed at ensuring that Black schoolchildren achieve at their maximum potential. As it is, there is growing evidence that Black children generally lag behind their white counterparts in reading and math skills. And what this means, says Jones-Wilson, is that "our children are falling between the cracks. They're not being properly educated for the 21st century."

The NCEBC's blueprint sets forth a set of recommendations ranging from encouraging students to develop and maintain a positive attitude about learning, to urging policymakers to investigate and replace policies and practices that may be obsolete.

NCEBC is now in the process of getting its blueprint "into classrooms, schools and school-board rooms so that a massive all-encompassing program is implemented," Jones-Wilson says.

The Howard educator became involved in the effort when she was contacted by Rep. Augustus Hawkins (D-Calif.), chairman of the House Committee on Education and Labor, who expressed his dismay over the underachievement of Black children and brought together other concerned individuals to address the issue.

WHMM-TV, the university's television station, received the 1987 Presidential Award for Private Sector Initiatives in a ceremony held at the White House in the summer.

The award recognizes organizations that have coordinated outstanding projects in their effort to solve community problems.



WHMM was cited for successfully organizing the "Stay-In-School" project, which was initiated in April 1986. "The project seeks to devise ways to minimize truancy, increase regular school attendance, and ultimately eradicate illiteracy," says Benni Singleton, the station's community affairs coordinator.

WHMM was the only public broadcast station among the four stations selected for the award. Arnold Wallace, general manager of WHMM-TV-32, accepted the award on behalf of the station.